

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner objects to Claim 19 under 37 CFR 1.75(c). As the Examiner will note by reference to the amendments made above, Claim 19 has been cancelled without prejudice, and therefore, this grounds for objection falls away.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 11 and 19 under 35 USC 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Kato (US Publication 2002/0017423) in view of Shimomura (US Publication 2002/0044671). This grounds for rejection is respectfully traversed.

First, the Examiner will note that Claim 1 has been amended to move the vibration unit limitation heretofore into Claim 3 into Claim 1 and to also recite that the connection member has "on an outer peripheral side thereof an annular groove in which an inner peripheral edge of the damper is received, the inner peripheral edge of the damper being secured in the annular groove". Support for this limitation is provided by the annular groove 17 shown in Figure 2 and discussed in the paragraph bridging pages 11 and 12 of the application as filed. Neither Kato nor Shimomura show such a feature. As such, it is believed that the rejection made by the Examiner has been overcome.

The specification has been amended to bring it into better alignment with the claims, and to make other minor corrections. For example, the word "snap" has been removed from the discussion of the embodiment found on pages 6 and 7 of the application as originally filed since it appears that only the embodiment discussed on page 8 of the application is truly a snap-action embodiment due to the elastically deformable members described thereat. Also, in the specification, the term "annular groove" was used with reference not only to element 17 discussed above but also with reference to element 15. However, in the claims, element 15 was referred to as a "ring-shaped recess" as opposed to "an annular groove". See, for example, Claim 3 of the application as filed. In order to help

make the detailed description align better with the claims, element 15 is amended by this response to refer to it as "a ring-shaped recess" as opposed to "an annular groove" in the specification.

As the Examiner will note by reference to the claim amendments made, other minor linguistic and editorial corrections have been made which are not believed to require any specific explanation. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding them, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at his convenience.

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

Response to Official Action
Dated 28 August 2006
Re: USSN 10/806,888
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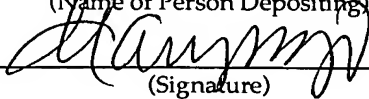
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26 December 2006

(Date of Deposit)

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(Signature)

26 December 2006

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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